

Ho-445

The Murray-Miller House/Bonnie Wood

Elkridge

Private

1929

Located on the south side of Lawvers Hill Road, Bonnie Wood faces north with an east wing forming a "T" plan. Essentially it is a symmetrical building but has elements of the Queen Anne Style in its two variated scaled gabled roof corner windows placed in the north and south sides of the gabled roof (running east-west) one and a half story high east wing. This wing extends from the east wall of a four bay wide, three bay deep, one and a half story high, gabled roof (running north-south) with wide central brick chimney, brick structure.

The brick house replaces an earlier frame house built in 1840 by Dr. Robert Dorsey who married Sarah Ann Duvall, and built the Edward Stead House Ho-389 in 1865 for his son Grafton.

The house was owned by a Mr. Latiner in 1878 and was acquired by the Daniel Murray family in 1911.

Sold to Charles A. Geatty in 1922, it burned to the ground in 1929 and was immediately replaced by the present house we see today.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Ho-445

Distr. 1

MAEI #140445504

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Murray - Miller House/ "Bonnie Wood"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6117 Lawyer's Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY  
Howard**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr and Mrs. Walter J. Miller

Telephone #: 796-0820

STREET &amp; NUMBER

6117 Lawyers Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Elkridge

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21227

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

Tax Map 32 P.14

Liber #: 204

Folio #: 303

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Howard County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Howard County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

21 State Circle, Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

# **7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miller-Murray house is located on the south side of Lawyers Hill Road, one tenth of a mile south of Lawyers Hill Road, one mile east of the intersection of Montgomery and Lawyers Hill Roads. It sits on a high piece of ground amidst lawns and woodland. It is built in a "T" plan with a five bay wide, three bay deep, one and a half story high, slate gable roof (running north-south) brick (laid in flemish bond) west wing with central brick chimney a three bay wide, four bay deep, one and a half story high, intersecting slate, gabled roof (running east-west) brick (laid in flemish bond) east wing. An eight columned, flat roofed, one story high portico runs along the north side of the west wing, affording cover to the main rectangular entrance way and a 12-12 light french door which are divided by a three-over-three square window and flanked by rectangular, double hung six-over-six light windows. The windows are decorated with stretcher brick flat lintels.

The entrances are flanked by a course of horizontally laid stretcher bricks, surmounted by flat stretcher brick lintels. The south side of this west wing holds a one story high, flat roofed, enclosed sun porch with numerous casement windows creating symmetry on the west elevation.

Two gabled roof dormer windows of varied scale are located on the north side of the east wing, and a wide gabled roof dormer holding two small rectangular windows on its south side.

Fenestration is varied with six-over-six lights, three over-three lights and four-over-four lights, as well as varied sized dormer windows so representative of the Queen Ann style.

A flat roofed open carport supported by wooden columns on brick piles lies on the east connected to a flat roofed open portico over the kitchen door and open brick staircase.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murray-Miller House is significant both historically and architecturally. It sits on a tract of land, originally a part of Rockburn. In the early eighteen hundreds Rockburn was owned and occupied by a Mary Dorsey who married a Daniel Murray from Annapolis. Her great grandson, another Daniel Murray, related the following story:

In those days Mary Dorsey owned most of the area now called Lawyers Hill. A Dr. Robert Dorsey wanted to buy a piece of property, the present Murray-Miller house property, but she would never sell it. She often had migraine head aches and conceded to him that she would sell the property to him if he would cure her of this head ache. He did so and acquired seventeen acres of land, on which he built a large frame house. He married Sarah Ann Duvall and had two children, Mrs. George Coale of Baltimore and Grafton D. Dorsey for whom he built the Edward Stead House in 1865. The house was later owned by a group of bachelors; lawyers and doctors from Baltimore who spent their summers here. The frame house was then known as Stagger Inn, as that is how many of its occupants entered on late summer evenings.

The 1878 Hopkin's Atlas designates the owner at that time as a Mr. Latimer. This family owned the Frame house until 1905 when Caroline Wormeley Latimer sold the property to H. Clinton McSherry on May 31. (WWLC 80-313) It comprise 16 and 23/100 acres together with the frame building.

Daniel Murray's family lived at Orange Grove from 1907 to 1911 when his mother and Amelia N. and Daniel Murray and his aunt, Rebecca N. Keys bought the property from A. Clinton McSherry. The property was then known as "Bonniewood on Lawyers Hill."

They had the architect of Grace Church, Mr. George Worthington completely remodel and renovate the old frame house.

On September 14, 1922 Rebecca Keys and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Murray sold the property to Charles A Geatty. (HBN 116-158) who lived there until 1929 when a tremendous fire destroyed the house. Mr. and

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Mrs. Murray had left all the old furniture in the house for the use of the Geattys as well as 18 barrels of china. They lived near by and saw the fire. Mrs. Murray told her son Daniel Murray to run up and save the two lamps on the mantle piece which he did and which he still owns today.

Mr. Geatty immediately built the present brick house which we see today.

Some eight years later, April 12, 1937 he sold the property to James Stanley Dunlop, who also owned the house for some eight years and sold it July 2, 1945 to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice F. Quill (BM Jr 185-425) "together with the buildings."

Three years later on June 16, 1948 it was acquired by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Miller. (204-303)

Architecturally the brick house is noteworthy for its electric style, blending elements of the Queen Anne Style, represented in its varied window treatment and the Georgian style in its columned portico and the symmetrical treatment on the north and west walls of the west wing.

Built of brick, constructed in flemish bond with windows accented by flat stretcher brick lintels, it is outstanding and located on an incomparable site high on the south side of Lawyers Hill Road amidst acres of woodland.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land Records.  
Interview with Mrs. Walter Miller,  
December 7, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.27

Please see Attachement I, Tax map 32, p.14.

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please see Howard County Land Records  
Liber 204, Folio 303.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning & Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

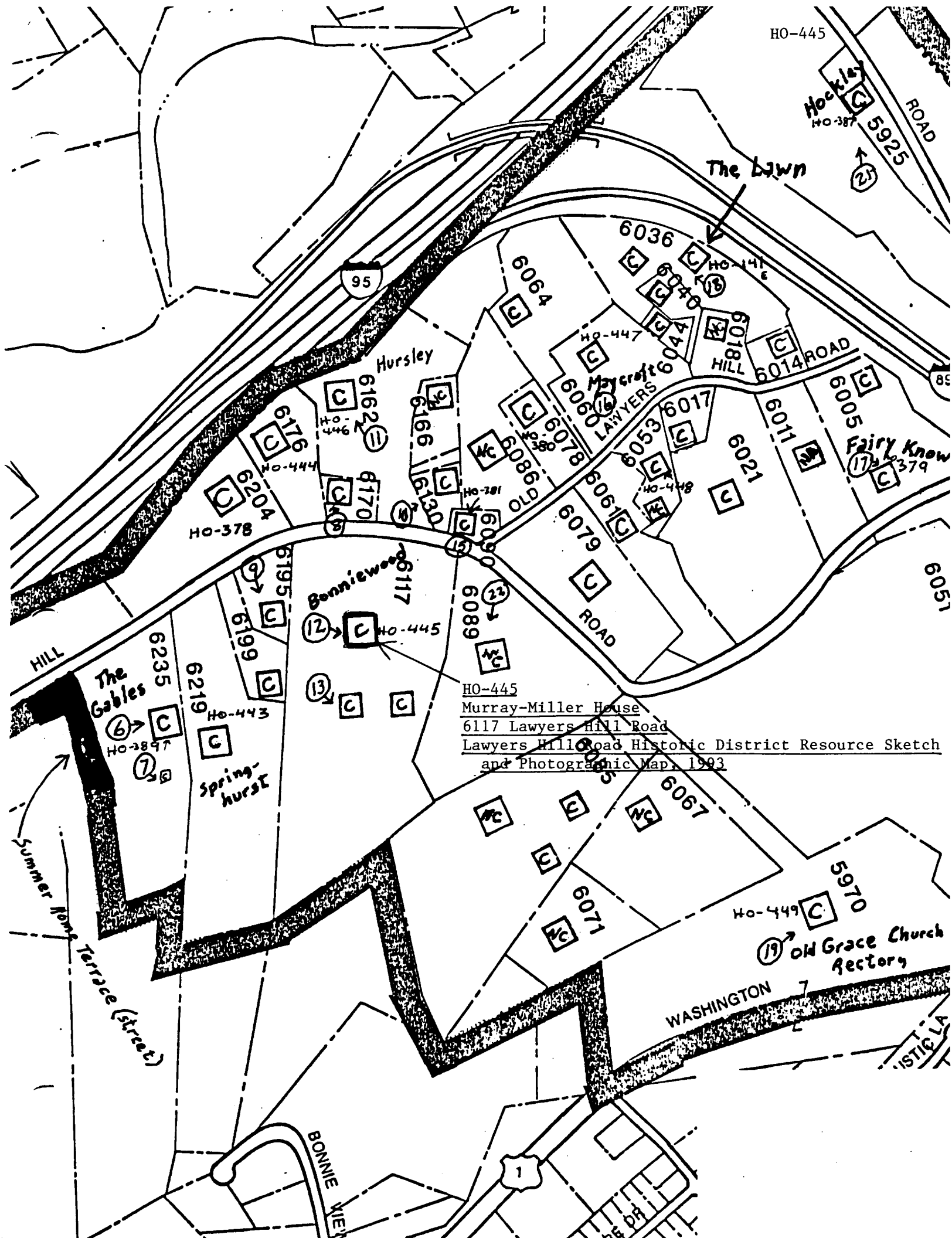
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



HO-445  
Murray-Miller House  
6117 Lawyers Hill Road  
Lawyers Hill Road Historic District Resource Sketch  
and Photographic Map, 1993

HO-449  
(19) Old Grace Church Rectory

The Gables  
(6) →  
HO-3897  
(7) →

Springhurst  
HO-443

Bonnie Wood  
6117  
HO-445  
(12) →  
(13) →

Maycroft  
LAWYERS  
HO-447  
HO-448

Fairy Know  
(17) →  
HO-379

The Lawn  
HO-1416

Hockley  
HO-387

95

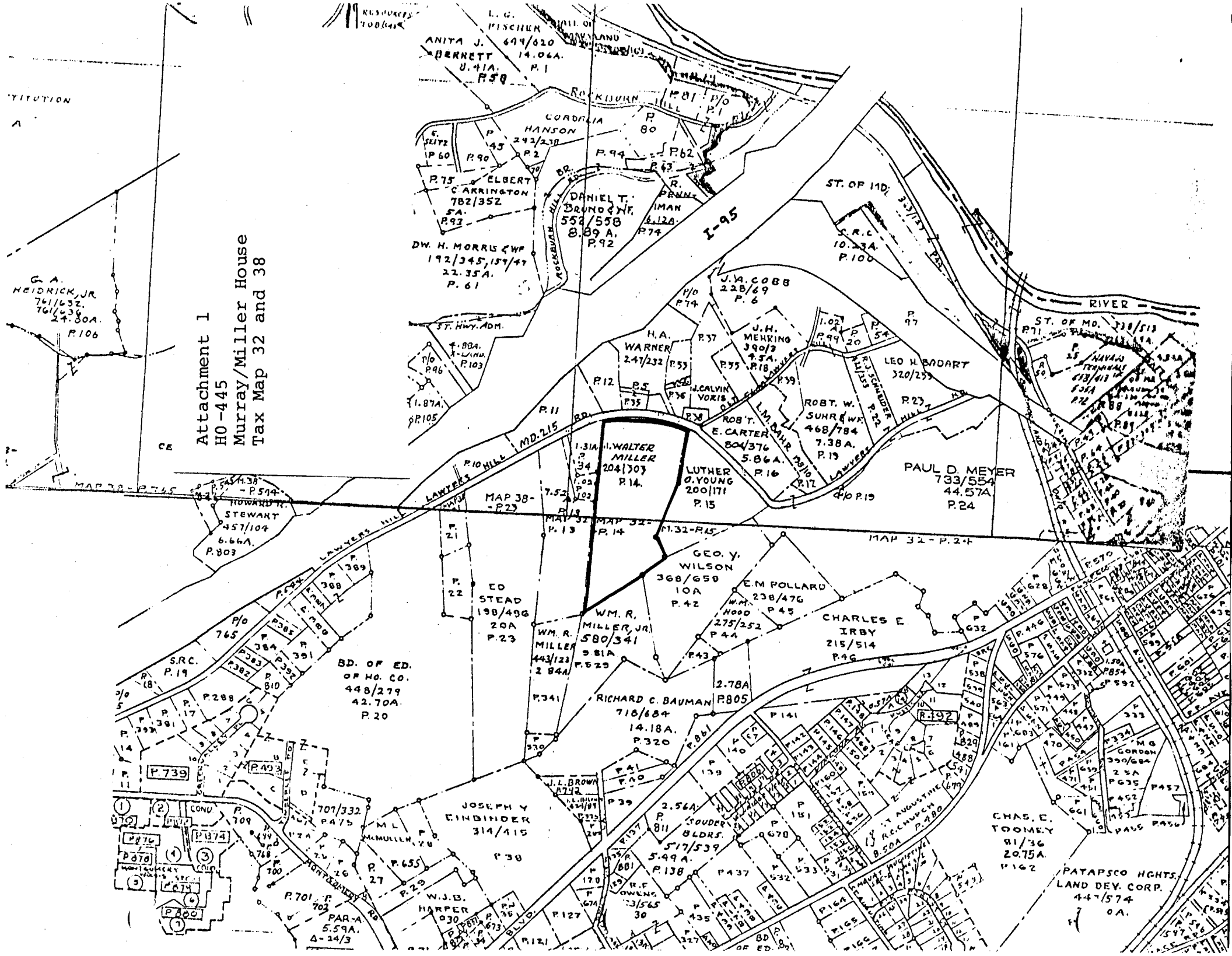
1

BONNIE WOOD

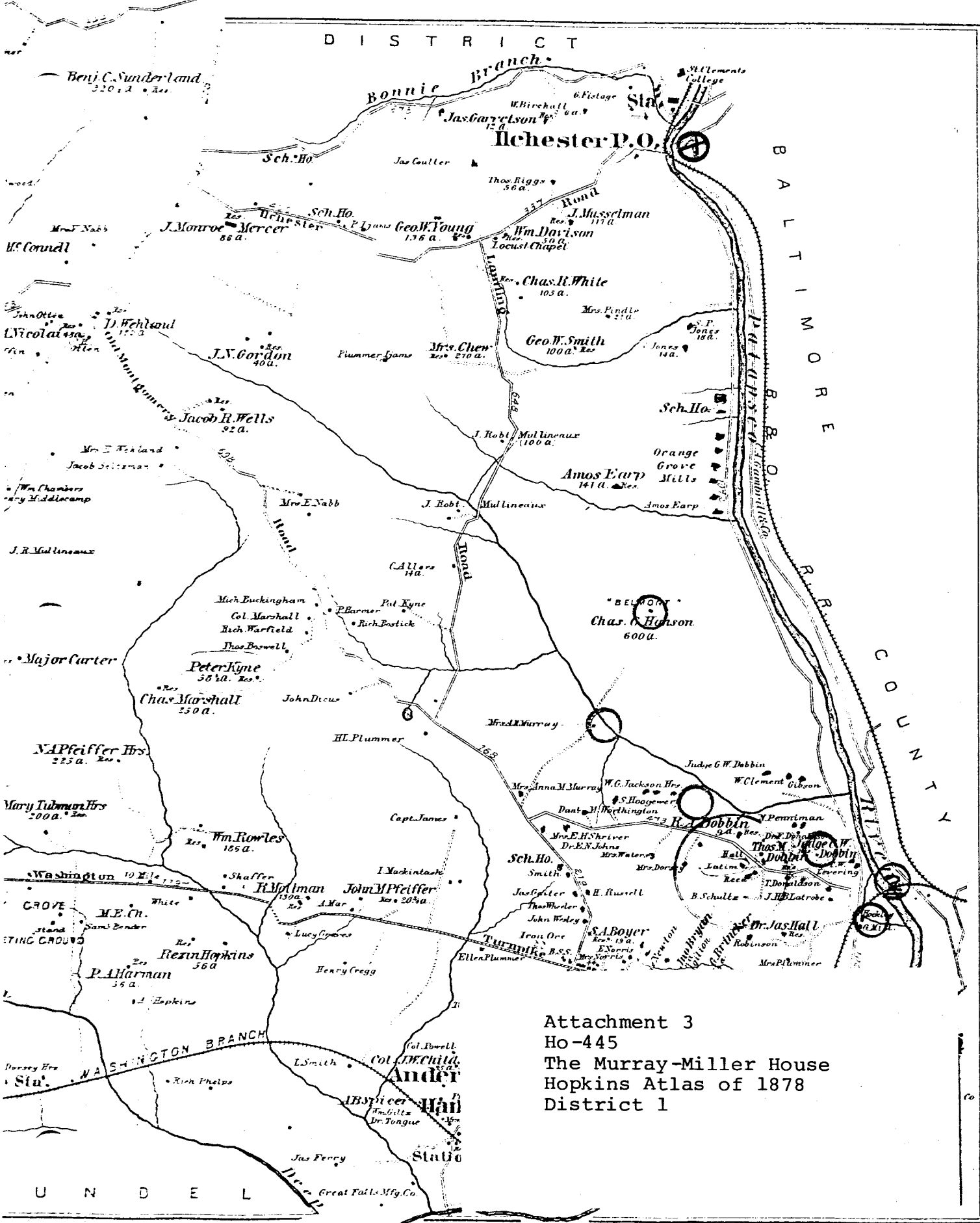
WASHINGTON

Summer Lane Terrace (Street)

Attachment 1  
HO-445  
Murray/Miller House  
Tax Map 32 and 38



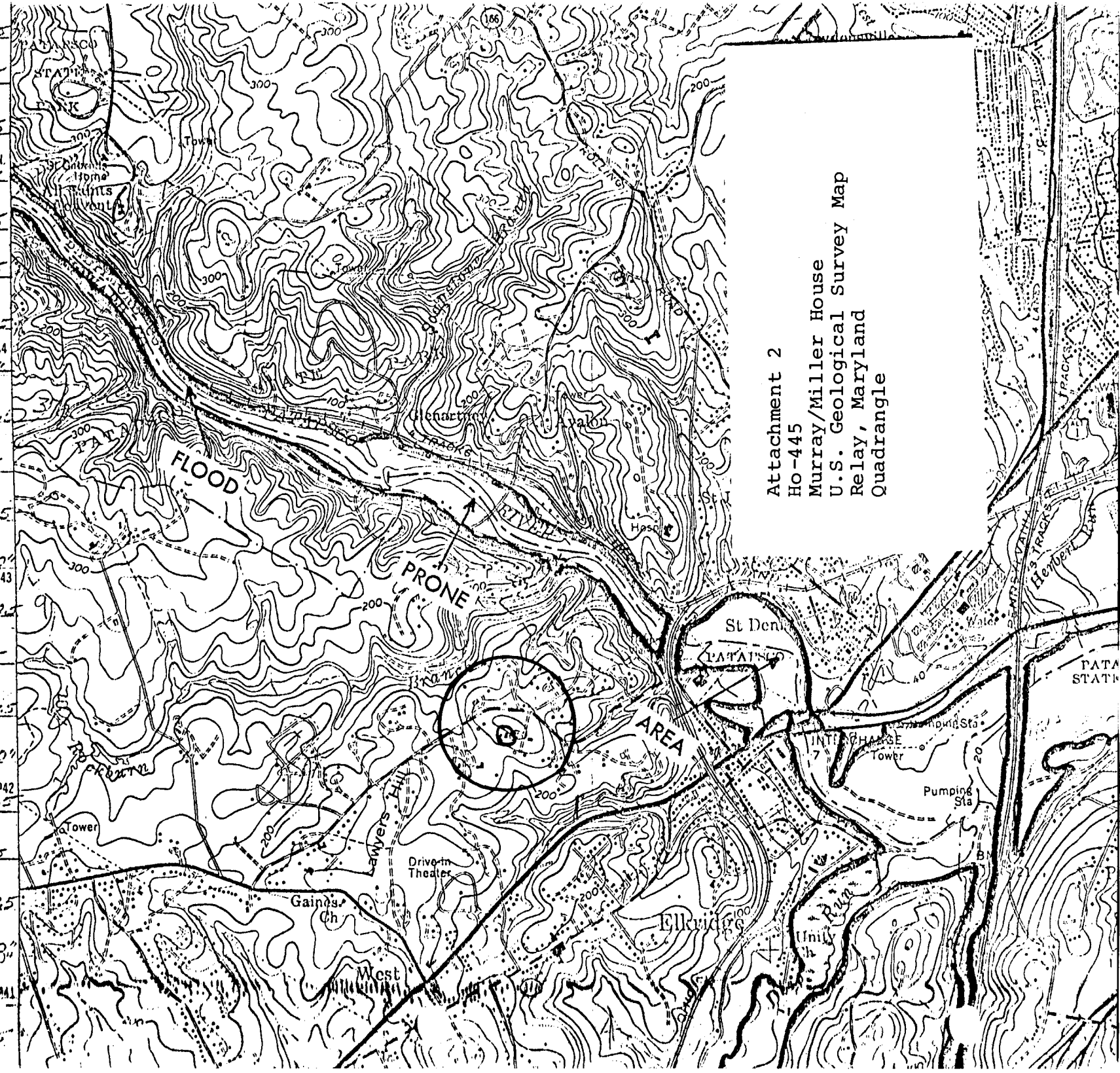




Attachment 3  
Ho-445  
The Murray-Miller House  
Hopkins Atlas of 1878  
District 1

52.5  
4.5  
37.5  
4345000m N.  
39°14'30"  
22.5  
1.5  
4344  
39°14'00"  
57.5  
1.5  
37.5  
39°13'30"  
4343  
22.5  
1.5  
4342  
57.5  
4.5  
32.5  
39°12'30"  
22.5  
1.5

57.5  
4.5  
37.5  
22.5  
1.5



Attachment 2  
Ho-445  
Murray/Miller House  
U.S. Geological Survey Map  
Relay, Maryland  
Quadrangle



Ho-445  
The Miller-Murphy House  
Southeast  
CB Thompson, A/P  
Dec. 1977